



The Trumpeter Swan Society **NEWSLETTER**

ISSN 0742-2792

Volume 12 Number 3

3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, Minnesota 55359

Autumn 1983

THE TOP COB SEZ

"Thanks," to those of you who have responded to my request in the last issue of the Newsletter. I must confess that the response has not been overwhelming, so I will repeat my request. Further discussion has occurred concerning the details of publishing a new monograph on the Trumpeter Swan. That discussion has taken us further down the path and has reaffirmed the need to collect, acquire any and all that has been written about Trumpeter Swans, published and unpublished. We are off the mark and moving -- we need your support, now. Don't be modest, don't be lazy -- do it now! Really, the success of the monograph is dependent upon your participation in this, the most important task -- the gathering of the necessary information, the data. Anything you have written about Trumpeters, especially the unpublished reports -- we need it all!

As I asked before, please send two copies of your contributions to the Society office (address above), even if you have previously mailed a copy to the library, since we need to keep this collection separate. I'll even go so far as to ask that you use both sides of a sheet of paper in the copying process, thereby halving the required storage space and lessening your postage costs.

And, don't overlook those annual and project reports that include Trumpeter Swan information -- those reports holed-up in field station and FWS Regional Office files never again to see the light of day. Many of you who propagate Trumpeters must have files loaded with "need-to-know" information. Please provide whatever you can to the Society -- it will be greatly appreciated!

A note of interest, in response to members' concerns, and those of the Society Directors, over Trumpeter productivity at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, I have appointed a committee to investigate marsh and waterfowl ecology at Red Rock Lakes. Art Hughlett has agreed to chair the committee. Other committee members are Harold Burgess, Art Hawkins, Frank Bellrose, and John Kadlec. The Red Rock Lakes Committee will carry out its study with the full knowledge and cooperation of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will report its findings at the Ninth Trumpeter Swan Society Conference in West Yellowstone.

Don Hammer

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NINTH CONFERENCE PLANS TAKE SHAPE

Plans for the Ninth Trumpeter Swan Society Conference continue to take shape. Program Chair Ruth Shea is pulling together an outstanding agenda that will be appealing to anyone having an interest in Trumpeter Swans. Briefly, Wednesday, 5 September, is slated to be a day in the field visiting and learning about the swan habitat and management of Idaho's Harriman State Park, Henry's Fork of the Snake River, and Island Park Dam. The Henry's Fork below the Island Park Dam has supported as many as 700 wintering Trumpeter Swans at one time. The evening program will address current banding and marking programs, the adequacy of swan bands and collars, materials, and protocol. Thursday, 6 September, will be devoted to papers and discussion on topics ranging from status reports on Trumpeter populations to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Trumpeter Swan management plan. Of particular interest will be the subject of the Trumpeter's population dynamics in Wyoming. Friday, the 7th, will find Conference participants heading over Red Rock Pass to Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana's Centennial Valley. A tour of the Refuge will be followed by afternoon and evening discussion sessions, which will include the report of the Red Rock Lakes Committee mentioned above in "THE TOP COB SEZ." Before going back to West Yellowstone, we will be treated to a good old Western barbecue. The Conference's last day, Saturday, 8 September, will see a continuation of discussion in the morning about Red Rock Lakes, together with discussion about ideas for establishing new wintering areas and an update on current Trumpeter restoration efforts. Saturday afternoon has been set aside for the Society's Regular Membership Meeting.

It will be a full 4 days of living and breathing Trumpeter Swans, and well worth your time and participation. An added bonus, Ruth says, "It's the greatest time of year to see Yellowstone and the Tetons." Take some vacation, make a trip of it, plan to come. Details about accommodations and advanced registration will be included in the coming issues of the Newsletter.

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SUMMARY OF 1983 TRUMPETER SWAN NESTING SEASON ON MALHEUR NWR

Gary Ivey, USFWS, Burns, Oregon

An attempt was made to monitor the distribution of Trumpeter Swans (Cygnus buccinator) on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Oregon, and determine their nesting success. Ponds where nesting activity was observed were checked periodically from mid-May until October 1983. Observations were made primarily from the ground and occasionally from the air.

An aerial survey in early June revealed 43 adult Trumpeters in the area, an estimated 18 pairs, a few lone individuals, and one group of three. Table 1 depicts the breeding success of each assumed pair, by location. Figure 1 [not included here -- available upon request from TTSS] indicates the locations of pairs observed. Predators may have decreased the size of some broods before the original brood size could be determined. Seven nests were successful and 28 cygnets were known to hatch, although only 17 cygnets reached flight stage. Six broods were successful to flight stage (Table 2), while one brood was totally lost and three broods lost from one to four cygnets. Mortality factors involved in cygnet losses prior to fledging are undocumented, although predation is most likely the major factor.

Over 85 percent of the adult swans and 100 percent of the broods observed were in the Blitzen Valley. Through July, swans were scattered and were seen singly, in pairs, and in groups of three. Starting in early August, flocks of seven to 19 swans were regularly observed in the Blitzen Valley -- particularly at Benson and Witzel Ponds, Boca Lake, and Krumbo Reservoir. Krumbo Reservoir is not traditionally used by Trumpeters, but in June the water level was lowered for repairs which made it attractive to the roving flocks of swans. By the latter part of September, 31 adults had congregated on Witzel Pond.

On August 23rd and 24th, five broods were captured from canoes, neck-collared, leg-banded, and released. The symbols on the green plastic collars and the cygnet broods on which they were placed were: West Buena Vista Pond (36AA, 37AA, 38AA, 39AA, and 41AA), Unit 8 Pond (42AA and 43AA), Benson Pond (44A, 46AA, and 47AA), and Rail Pond (45AA and 48AA). The Benson Pond brood had moved to Witzel Pond and the Rail Pond brood to W. Knox Pond, where they were collared and banded.

Breeding swans were strongly territorial during incubation and post-hatching periods. Other swans were seldom if ever seen on the hatching pond. In late summer, when non-breeding swans started flocking at Benson and Witzel Ponds, the adults kept the Benson Pond brood separate. During the early post-hatching period, broods were generally observed near the nest. Later, the adults moved them to other parts of the pond, and eventually to a different pond or a canal. Movements between ponds exposed broods to potential coyote predation. By the end of September, all except one brood had been moved at least once. A decrease in brood size was frequently noted after a move. It is suspected that coyote predation sometimes instigated a move or occurred during a move after the swan brood's hatching pond dried up. Another reason for moving could have been exhaustion of the food supply in a particular pond or portion of a pond. Human disturbances did not seem to be an influencing factor in relocation of broods. Even after capturing, collaring, and banding cygnets, all parents kept their broods in the same pond for at least two more weeks. In late September, the parents of one brood apparently separated, with each adult taking the responsibility for one cygnet.

The Trumpeter Swan Society
NEWSLETTER
EDITOR: David K. Weaver

The Trumpeter Swan Society NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by The Trumpeter Swan Society, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359. The Trumpeter Swan Society is incorporated as a non-profit organization. Memberships are available on a calendar-year basis: Student and Retired \$7.50, Regular \$10.00, Family \$15.00, Organization \$20.00, Supporting \$100.00, Contributing \$250.00, Life \$500.00, Corporate \$1,000.00. All contributions are tax deductible. Send all correspondence and address changes to: The Trumpeter Swan Society, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359.

Table 1. Nesting locations and nest and brood success for Trumpeter Swan pairs of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge flock, 1983.

Location	Number of cygnets hatched	Number of cygnets fledged
Island Ranch	0	0
Derrick Lake	*	-
Mud Lake	*	-
Sodhouse	*	-
Wrights Pond	5	4
Rockyford Lane	*	-
Unit 9 Pond	5	3
Unit 8 Pond	6	0
Oliver Springs	*	-
Buena Vista Pond	5	5
Rutherford Lake	*	-
Diamond Swamp	0	0
Benson Pond	4	2
West Swamp	*	-
Jones Pond	*	-
Knox Pond	*	-
Knox Swamp	1	1
Pail Pond	2	2
Darnell Pond	0	0
Total	28	17

* Not known to have nested



Table 2. Summary of Trumpeter Swan production on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, 1958-83.

Year	Young produced	Mean brood size (actual sizes*)	No. of successful broods**
1958	4	2.0	2
1959	0	0.0	0
1960	14	2.8 (5,3,3,2,1)	5
1961	0	0.0	0
1962	3	1.5 (1,2)	2
1963	16	4.0 (3,5,5,3)	4
1964	6	2.0	3
1965	10	2.5 (4,3,2,1)	4
1966	12	3.0 (5,3,3,1)	4
1967	12	4.0 (2,4,6)	3
1968	11	2.2 (4,2,2,2,1)	5
1969	14	3.5 (5,4,4,1)	4
1970	13	3.25 (4,4,3,2)	4
1971	22	3.7 (5,4,4,4,3,2)	6
1972	13	2.6 (2,3,3,3,2)	5
1973	4	4.0 (4)	1
1974	9	3.0 (5,2,2)	3
1975	7	2.3 (2,4,1)	3
1976	8	4.0 (4,4)	2
1977	0	0.0	0
1978	13	2.6 (2,2,2,3,4)	5
1979	33	3.3 (3,3,5,4,3,1,1,5,6,2)	10
1980	15	2.1 (4,1,1,4,1,2,2)	7
1981	9	3.0 (3,3,3)	3
1982	17	2.8 (3,6,1,3,3,1)	6
1983	17	2.8 (4,3,5,2,1,2)	6
Total	282	2.9	97

* Size of brood that fledged

** Number of broods that fledged

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Excerpts from -

COLOR MARKING JUVENILE TRUMPETER SWANS ON MALHEUR NWR, OREGON -- PROGRESS REPORT, DECEMBER 1983

Gary Ivey, USFWS, Burns, Oregon

OBJECTIVES:

1. To investigate the movements and fates of collared Trumpeter Swans.
2. Document life history information (pair formation, feeding behavior, brood success, etc.) of collared Trumpeter Swans.

JUSTIFICATION:

Trumpeter Swans were introduced at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Harney County, Oregon, in 1939, but the first successful production did not occur until 1958. Since 1958, an average of almost 10 cygnets have been fledged annually on the Refuge. Despite this annual production and an apparent excess of breeding habitat, the number of breeding pairs has remained relatively stable in recent years. By marking cygnets we hope to determine the fate of swans after fledging. This will provide information on the factors limiting the Malheur NWR Trumpeter Swan population.

SUMMARY:

Forty-five cygnets and two adults have been collared from 1980 through 1983. Sightings of marked birds have been limited to the Refuge, except one possible sighting on Beatty Reservoir along Highway 20 between Stinkingwater and Drinkwater summits, 40 miles northeast of Refuge headquarters.

Of the 10 cygnets collared in 1980, only 10AA was sighted in 1983. Of the nine cygnets and one adult collared in 1981, none were observed in 1983. Cygnet 11AA was found dead under a powerline in 1982, and cygnet 14AA was found dead and partially eaten by a predator in October 1981. Of the 14 cygnets and one adult collared in 1982, 22AA was found being consumed by a bobcat in January 1983 and eight were observed in 1983. Of the 12 cygnets collared in 1983, nine have been reported after marking.

A summary of collaring locations and latest observations for marked swans is presented in Table 1. Table 2 lists the number of collared swans observed from each year's banding effort during subsequent years. Approximately 21 percent of collared birds were never observed after initial marking, approximately 51 percent have not been observed again after the first year, and approximately 90 percent have not been observed again after the second year. Possible reasons include: 1) collars may have broken off (one bird, marked in 1980, had lost its collar and was identified by its leg band; birds marked in 1980 and 1981 had their collars attached with "super glue," while birds marked in 1982 and 1983 had their collars attached with aluminum pop rivets); 2) birds may have died (three known collared birds have died, one a possible powerline collision victim and the others were possible predation victims); and, 3) birds may not be using the Refuge. Of the possible factors, loss of collars and mortality are the most likely reasons for their disappearance.

It appears that some mortality occurs to cygnets just before fledging, possibly due to drying of their habitats and increased exposure to predation resulting from brood wandering. As previously stated, 21 percent of collared swans were never reported after marking. It is assumed that the majority of these birds succumbed to predation before fledging. Some of this mortality may have been influenced by the marking and banding program, although many unmarked cygnets disappear just prior to fledging, also.

Table 1. Summary of collaring locations and latest observations (through December 1983) of marked Trumpeter Swans on Malheur NWR.

Collar number	Age*-sex	Date collared	Location	Last observation	Location
01AA	HY-F	13 Aug 80	Unit 8 Pond	5 May 81	Unit 8 Pond
02AA	HY-M	13 Aug 80	Unit 8 Pond	18 Aug 81	Unit 8 Pond
03AA	HY-F	13 Aug 80	Unit 8 Pond	18 Aug 81	Unit 8 Pond
04AA	HY-M	13 Aug 80	Unit 8 Pond	---	---
05AA	HY-M	14 Aug 80	Knox Pond	3 Sep 80	Knox Pond
06AA	HY-M	14 Aug 80	Benson	31 May 81	E. Buena Vista Pond
07AA	HY-M	14 Aug 80	Benson Pond	31 May 81	W. Canal (Rimrock Fld)
08AA	HY-M	14 Aug 80	Benson Pond	8 May 81	Rockford Lane
09AA	HY-M	14 Aug 80	Benson Pond	8 May 81	Rockford Lane
10AA	HY-M	15 Aug 80	Knox Swamp	14 Dec 83	E. Knox Pond
11AA	HY-F	17 Aug 81	Unit 8 Pond	13 May 82	Rimrock Field**
12AA	HY-F	17 Aug 81	Unit 8 Pond	15 Mar 82	W. Canal at Unit 8 Pond
13AA	HY-F	17 Aug 81	Unit 8 Pond	23 Sep 81	Unit 8 Pond
14AA	HY-M	18 Aug 81	Knox Swamp	9 Oct 81	Knox Pond #3**
15AA	HY-M	18 Aug 81	Knox Swamp	---	---
16AA	HY-M	18 Aug 81	Knox Swamp	---	---
17AA	AHY-M	18 Aug 81	Knox Swamp	24 Dec 82	W. Canal at Jones Fld.
18AA	HY-F	18 Aug 81	Unit 9 Pond	---	---
19AA	HY-F	18 Aug 81	Unit 9 Pond	---	---
20AA	HY-F	18 Aug 81	Unit 9 Pond	---	---
21AA	AHY-F	19 Aug 82	Warbler Pond	16 Dec 82	Buena Vista Pond
22AA	HY-F	19 Aug 82	Warbler Pond	9 Jan 82	5-mile Road corral**
23AA	HY-F	19 Aug 82	Warbler Pond	14 Dec 82	Witzel Pond
24AA	HY-M	19 Aug 82	Warbler Pond	22 Aug 82	Warbler Pond
25AA	HY-F	23 Aug 82	Wrights Pond	28 Dec 83	Sod House Spring
26AA	HY-F	23 Aug 82	Wrights Pond	---	---
27AA	HY-M	23 Aug 82	Wrights Pond	28 Dec 83	Sod House Spring
28AA	HY-F	23 Aug 82	Wrights Pond	25 Sep 83	Boca Lake
29AA	HY-F	23 Aug 82	Rail Pond	6 Oct 82	Witzel Pond
30AA	HY-F	23 Aug 82	Rail Pond	28 Dec 82	Sod House Spring
31AA	HY-M	23 Aug 82	Rail Pond	11 Oct 82	Witzel Pond
32AA	HY-F	23 Aug 82	Knox Swamp	24 Dec 82	W. Canal at Jones Fld.
33AA	HY-F	23 Aug 82	Knox Swamp	14 Dec 83	E. Knox Pond
34AA	HY-M	23 Aug 82	Knox Swamp	14 Dec 83	E. Knox Pond
35AA	HY-M	24 Aug 82	Benson Pond	29 Nov 83	Derrick Lake
36AA	HY-M	23 Aug 83	W. Buena Vista Pond	28 Sep 83	Skunk Farm Pond
37AA	HY-F	23 Aug 83	W. Buena Vista Pond	28 Sep 83	Skunk Farm Pond
38AA	HY-M	23 Aug 83	W. Buena Vista Pond	28 Sep 83	Skunk Farm Pond
39AA	HY-M	23 Aug 83	W. Buena Vista Pond	28 Sep 83	Skunk Farm Pond
41AA	HY-F	23 Aug 83	W. Buena Vista Pond	28 Sep 83	Skunk Farm Pond
42AA	HY-F	24 Aug 83	Unit 8 Pond	---	---
43AA	HY-F	24 Aug 83	Unit 8 Pond	---	---
44AA	HY-M	24 Aug 83	Unit 8 Pond	---	---
45AA	HY-F	24 Aug 83	Knox Pond	24 Oct 83	Benson Pond
46AA	HY-F	24 Aug 83	Witzel Pond	21 Dec 83	Sod House Spring
47AA	HY-F	24 Aug 83	Witzel Pond	21 Dec 83	Sod House Spring
48AA	HY-F	24 Aug 1983	Knox Pond	24 Oct 83	Benson Pond

* HY - hatching year; AHY - after hatching year

** Dead

Table 2. Number of collared Trumpeter Swans observed following initial collaring, 1980-1983, Malheur NWR.

Year collared	No. collared	No. observed*			
		1980	1981	1982	1983
1980	10	9	6	2	1
1981	10**	-	5**	3**	0
1982	15**	-	-	14**	8
1983	12	-	-	-	9

* After initial collaring

** Includes 1 adult

Other trends evident are that wintering swans tend to spend time in the Blitzen Valley and at Double O until freeze-up moves them to open waters such as Sod House Spring. Generally, young birds have been observed in the spring until the nesting season begins. Apparently, they leave the area while adults nest, not returning until after territorial aggression ceases. Presently, it is not known where the subadults spend the summer. The data provides evidence that Trumpeter Swans have strong family bonds and behave as a family group for at least 2 years after hatching (an adult male, 17AA, was observed on 28 Oct 1982 with his broods from the previous two seasons).

Only one marked swan has been reported off the Refuge, but positive identification was not determined. Preliminary data indicate the local nesting population of Trumpeter Swans is sedentary.

Recommendations for further study:

1. Continue marking up to 50 percent of Trumpeter Swan cygnets produced on the Refuge annually for the next 5 to 10 years, primarily to gain more insight into movements and mortality factors. Marked birds may also be used to evaluate responses of a given pair to habitat management practices in terms of production and brood mortality. Mark any flightless adults that can be captured, primarily to monitor their responses to habitat management and their association with family groups.
2. Attach radios to 10 cygnets annually for 3 years and monitor movements and mortality through radio telemetry.
3. Increase efforts to solicit reports of marked swans to improve the return data base.
4. Spend extra time when possible searching for marked swans in potential areas. A summer flight over potential summer use areas would be desirable.
5. Solicit a volunteer to monitor marked swans during the fall/winter period to document feeding habits, their movements, and mortality, and to capture Trumpeter Swans to check their body condition.

[Editor's Note: The Malheur Refuge staff would be happy to hear of any collar observations. Collared Malheur Trumpeters wear green plastic collars with white alphanumeric codes. Codes used in the marking program to date are 01AA through 48AA (omitting 40AA). If anyone has seen a swan, dead or alive, with one of these collars, please contact Malheur NWR, PO Box 113, Burns, OR 97720 (503/493-2323). Any other collared swan observations are also welcome. Contact TTSS, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359 (612/477-4255). Be sure to include color of collar, alphanumeric code, location, and number of other swans with collared bird.]

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SUMMARY OF TRUMPETER SWAN PRODUCTION, TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST, 1983

Gail Worden, USFS, Ashton, Idaho
Mary B. Maj, USFS, Dubois, Idaho

Location	Clutch size	Number hatched	Comments
Mesa Marsh, ID	4	1	1 cygnet seen til 7/5, none after 7/9
Swan Lake (Hwy 20), ID	-	-	Used by 1 adult and 3 yearlings
Eccles Marsh, ID	-	-	2 adults, no nest
Bear Lake, ID	3	0	Nest flooded; new nest material Oct.
Thompson Hole, ID	4	4	2 cygnets seen Aug; 2 cygnets fledged
Long Meadows, ID	-	-	2 adults, no nest
Indian Lake, WY	-	-	2 adults, no nest
Ernest Lake, WY	-	-	2 adults, no nest
Chain Lake, ID	-	-	2 adults, no nest (could be Ernest L. birds)
Upper Goose, ID	-	-	2 adults, no nest
Twin Lake (Fall River Ridge), ID	-	-	2 adults, no nest
Lower Goose, ID	-	-	2 adults, no nest (could be Twin L. birds)
Pineview, ID	-	-	2 adults, no nest
Hatchery Butte, ID	5(?)	5(?)	5 cygnets fledged
Lily Pond, ID	-	-	1 adult, no nest
Totals	16	10	7 cygnets fledged from 10 eggs hatched

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Excerpts from -

1983 TRUMPETER SWAN REPORT - RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Terry McEneaney and Barry Reiswig, USFWS, Lima, Montana

Tri-state Trumpeter Swan Survey

The Tri-state Trumpeter Swan Survey was conducted from September 12 through September 15. The purpose of the Tri-state Survey is to determine population levels and production of the Tri-state subpopulations before migrating Canadian Trumpeter Swans arrive for the winter. The Survey was conducted once every 3 years from 1968 through 1983, but will now be conducted on an annual basis.

A total of 452 Trumpeter Swans was counted during the September 1983 survey. Out of the total 452 Trumpeter Swans counted, 398 were adult-subadults while there were only 54 cygnets. Montana accounted for 57 percent of the population with 228 adult-subadults and 32 cygnets. Idaho and Wyoming had very similar population distributions with 22 percent (92 adults and 6 cygnets = 98) and 21 percent (78 adults and 16 cygnets = 94), respectively.

Trumpeter Swan Production

A total of 37 pairs of Trumpeter Swans was found occupying territories in early spring on RRLNWR. Of the 37 pairs, 29 actually built nests; however, 34 percent of the Trumpeter Swan nests found on RRLNWR were destroyed due to flooding. Hopefully, the artificial nesting structures introduced this year [1984] will help alleviate this serious problem.

Other important production statistics on RRLNWR include:

Eggs

Mean clutch size	4.60 (n = 23)
Egg fertility	75% (n = 67)

Hatching

Hatch rate	3.72 per nest
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$\frac{67 \text{ eggs hatched}}{18 \text{ nests checked}}$

Earliest hatching date	June 12
Latest hatching date	July 3
Peak hatching	June 20-21

In 1983, only 19 cygnets reached the fledgling stage on RRLNWR. Three out of the last 4 years have also resulted in low numbers of fledged cygnets. 1982 was the worst year on record for RRLNWR, when only four cygnets reached the fledgling stage. It just so happens that these years were years with wet spring conditions. The reasons for the poor showing are not totally understood. But, after reviewing the data from the Refuge files, it appears that weather-related activities (water runoff, water levels, cold temps., rain, snow, hail) have undoubtedly had a profound influence in overall cygnet survival.

Cygnets

Mean brood size	3.40 (n = 15)
early season	
young cygnets	
Mean brood size	2.71 (n = 7)
late season	
older cygnets	
Highest number of cygnets counted at one time	46 (July 29, 1983)
Total number of cygnets fledged	19

Centennial Valley* (Outside of RRLNWR)

Eggs

Mean clutch size	4.89 (n = 9)
Egg fertility	61% (n = 44)

Hatching

Hatch rate	3.00 per nest
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27 eggs hatched
9 nests checked

Earliest hatching date	June 13
Latest hatching date	July 4
Peak hatching	June 20-21

Cygnets

Mean brood size	2.96 (n = 8)
early season	
young cygnets	
Mean brood size	2.60 (n = 5)
late season	
older cygnets	
Total number of cygnets fledged	13

* All off-refuge figures include Elk and Conklin Lakes

Egg-Cygnet Giveaway Program

No eggs or cygnets were given away in 1982 due to poor production. The Refuge was adamant about not giving anything away in 1983, because of the poor production year. Commitments were made before the nesting season, and Minnesota received 12 eggs for their introduction program. After reviewing the population data, RRLNWR is proposing a moratorium on all egg-cygnet-subadult-adult (Trumpeter Swans) giveaways until there are more positive signals of population stability.

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A WHISTLING SWAN CONTROVERSY

Harold H. Burgess, USFWS (Retired), Liberty, Missouri

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Flyway Council recognize the western and eastern Whistling Swan (Cygnus columbianus)¹ populations for administrative purposes. The western population winters in the Pacific coastal states and the eastern population winters in the Atlantic coastal states. They do not yet recognize the "central Whistling Swan population" that winters in scattered groups from western Florida to eastern California and south. These are remnants of the large flocks that once wintered in southern United States and the Republic of Mexico.

¹ According to the American Ornithologists' Union, the current common name for Cygnus columbianus is "Tundra Swan." The previous common name, "Whistling Swan," is used deliberately here to reduce further confusion with "Trumpeter Swan."

By lumping all Whistling Swans into western and eastern populations, waterfowl managers were able to make a case for hunting concentrated segments of Whistling Swans in the Pacific Flyway. Permit swan hunting has been allowed in several counties in Utah, Nevada, and western Montana for the past 15 years.

The eastern population has recently increased to where they are accused of destroying crops in Virginia and the Carolinas. Waterfowl managers would like to hunt those swans, but our eastern people are so opposed to shooting swans that the managers have decided to hunt the eastern swan populations in the Central Flyway! In 1983, the Central Flyway Council asked the Secretary of Interior to approve Whistling Swan hunting in eastern Montana and in numerous counties in North and South Dakota.

Montana extended their swan hunting to eastern Montana in 1983. North and South Dakota needed an extra year to create a demand for swan hunting, but plan to hunt swans in 1984.

If swans are actually too numerous and are destroying crops in Virginia and the Carolinas -- that is where they should be hunted, not in the faraway Dakotas and Montana. Swans are not too numerous in the Central Flyway and it is poor management to hunt them there. The north-central managers do not know that their swans are bound for Virginia and the Carolinas. Their swans may be parts of remnant flocks bound for south-central United States and the Republic of Mexico or they may be resident Trumpeter Swans (C. buccinator). The once-endangered Trumpeters have expanded their range in the northern Central Flyway. Trumpeters are difficult to distinguish from Whistling Swans, yet the swan hunts are proposed to open early with the duck seasons when only resident Trumpeters would be present. Under these circumstances, it will be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior, the Central Flyway Council, the states, and knowledgeable citizens who allow such a hunt, if the "central Whistling Swans" are exterminated or a Trumpeter Swan is shot for a Whistling Swan.

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NEWS OF NOTE

SOCIETY GAINS NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The Trumpeter Swan Society has recently benefited from the contributions of two new Life Members, Jim King of Juneau, Alaska, and Wendell Mohling of Olathe, Kansas. Jim recently retired from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a pilot-biologist. From the Service's Juneau office, he was responsible for waterfowl investigations in the State of Alaska. It was Jim who developed and refined the method for aerial censusing Trumpeter Swans in Alaska. Through his interest in Trumpeters, he has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the species. Jim was one of the authors of Wildlife Monographs No. 26, The Trumpeter Swan in Alaska (Henry A. Hansen, Peter E. K. Shepherd, James G. King, and Willard A. Troyer. October 1971. The Wildlife Society.). Although retired, Jim remains active with his many interests, not the least of which continues to be the Trumpeter Swan.

Wendell Mohling is a biology and student naturalist teacher at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School in Shawnee Mission, Kansas. He and his wife, Carol, are directing the development of Prairie Center, a 300-acre area to be devoted to the interpretation of virgin tall grass prairie. Wendell is the site's Director-Naturalist. His interest in Trumpeter Swans arose from Carol's and his involvement in observing and photographing wildlife in Alaska and the Yellowstone and Red Rock Lakes areas. The Trumpeter Swan Society is beholden to both Jim King and Wendell Mohling for their interest in, support of and commitment to the Trumpeter Swan and the goals and objectives of the Society.

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NOTICE OF COLLARED TRUMPETER SWANS

During Summer 1983, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel collared 46 Trumpeter Swans in the Minto Flats area near Fairbanks, Alaska, and the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge near Tanacross, Alaska. These birds have been collared to better understand use of wetlands in the breeding area, migration routes, wintering areas, and fidelity of returning birds to breeding areas.

The swans have blue collars with white codes. All codes begin with two numbers followed by the letters EA (example 22EA). All collars are read from the base of the swan's neck up. Codes are 21EA through 67EA. Each four-symbol code is repeated five times around the collar.

If you see one of these birds, or know of someone who has seen a collared swan, please forward the following information:

1. date of observation(s)
2. exact location in reference to nearest town
3. collar codes (including condition and observability of collar)
4. number of other swans in flock (including age, family, etc.)
5. activity and behavior of bird during observation
6. observation circumstances (including distance, visibility, etc.)

Two of these swans were affixed with a small radio transmitter mounted via a harness centered in the middle of the back. The frequencies are 164.200 MHz and 164.225 MHz. These two birds are also wearing the blue collars with codes 22EA and 64EA. If you observe these two birds, you may call collect to:

Rod King
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1412 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-0256

Other collar sightings should be sent to the above address and:

Bird Banding Laboratory
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Laurel, Maryland 20811

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STATUS OF WINTERING TRUMPETERS AT LACREEK

Anyone who has driven to Lacreek Refuge Headquarters outside of Martin, South Dakota, this winter has been treated to the spectacular sight of the magnificent Trumpeter Swan. Lacreek is one of the few places in the contiguous United States where people can regularly see the swan during the winter.

The Trumpeters began arriving at the Refuge to begin their winter stay in early November. Most will stay until mid-February when they will begin to look for isolated breeding ponds and lakes. The peak winter population at Lacreek this year was 264 swans on 7 December 1983. Since then, the numbers have gone down to approximately 160 shortly after Christmas. Refuge Manager Rolf H. Kraft states that, "This is not normally the pattern. While 263 is the highest number of swans that has ever wintered at Lacreek, they usually stay for the entire winter before dispersing in February. I have flown over the sandhills south of the Refuge trying to locate the 100 birds that are missing, but have only turned up a few scattered here and there. If anyone has seen any swans outside the Refuge, I would sure appreciate hearing from you. We would sure like to know where they have gone."

With the extreme weather conditions of 23 December in the area, some people fear that the missing birds are dead. The temperature on the 23rd dropped to -42°F. and there were associated wind chill factors of -100°F. Then, there are those who think the missing 100 birds migrated since they vanished in family groups, and no more than the normal several dead birds have been found. Let's hope that the latter is true.

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L I T E R A T U R E

A POSSIBLE MIGRATION ROUTE FOR TRUMPETER SWANS (*Cygnus buccinator*) IN BRITISH COLUMBIA (August 1983. Progress Notes No. 138. Canadian Wildlife Service.)

R. W. McKelvey, Canadian Wildlife Service, Delta, British Columbia V4K 3Y3
C. Burton, Powell River, British Columbia V8A 3W9

ABSTRACT. During the winters of 1980-81 and 1981-82, 43 Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) and one Whistling Swan (*C. columbianus*) were banded and neck-collared near Powell River, BC. Those swans have been sighted since at the head of Toba Inlet, Francois Lake, and the Nautley and Middle rivers in British Columbia, and at Tagish Narrows in the Yukon. Of the 35 swans collared in 1980-81, 21 returned to Powell River in 1981-82, and several were seen on Vancouver Island at Comox. From the locations of sightings of banded birds in migration, or of banded birds wintering in the interior of British Columbia, the migration route appears to be in the interior rather than along the coast. Although climatic conditions on interior wintering areas can be harsh, those areas may be traditional staging areas and thus worthy of protection.

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N O T I C E S

1984 MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS are now being received. For those of you who have not renewed your membership, a "second renewal notice" is enclosed for your convenience. Your continued interest, support, and participation are needed and appreciated. Please "re-up," today! Remember, all contributions are tax deductible.

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TTSS QUALIFIES FOR BULK MAILING PERMIT as a recently designated nonprofit organization. Bulk mailing of the Newsletter was initiated with the last issue (vol. 12 no. 2) at a considerable savings over the heretofore used first class mail. Shortcomings of bulk mail -- it will not be forwarded and is more frequently lost along the way. If for some reason you did not receive the last issue of the Newsletter, please notify the Society administrative offices as soon as possible. Henceforth, the Postal Service will be asked to provide address corrections for undeliverable pieces of bulk mail.

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"HIGH COUNTRY SWAN," Society member Bob Landis' film about the Trumpeter Swans of Yellowstone National Park, is now available on a rental basis from The Trumpeter Swan Society. The 20-minute film is being provided at a fee of \$15.00, which includes postage one way. The photography is exciting and a cut above the rest, and the narrative is enlightening. To order, send your request and check or money order, made out to "The Trumpeter Swan Society," to: The Trumpeter Swan Society, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359.

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BANKO'S THE TRUMPETER SWAN is available from the University of Nebraska Press. The second printing of the monograph is a Bison Books paperback. To order your copy, write: University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th Street, 318 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588. Prepay or use your VISA or Master Card. The cost is \$5.95 plus \$1.00 for shipping.

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TRUMPETER SWAN POSTER AVAILABLE -- Wendell and Carol Mohling's striking color photograph of a Trumpeter Swan with outstretched wings, rearing up in the water (black & white reproduction page 3) is available on a 23 7/8" x 18" poster with the words "I like it wild. . ." inscribed at the bottom. These posters have been donated to the Society. Therefore, all proceeds from the sale of these posters will be used to further the Society's work. To order, send your request and check or money order, made out to "The Trumpeter Swan Society," to: The Trumpeter Swan Society, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359. The cost is \$2.50 plus \$1.00 for shipping.

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NEW MEMBERS IN 1983 (July-December):

Karen S. Bollinger, Fairbanks, AK
Giuseppe DeCampoli, Pound Ridge, NY
Martin M. Derrick, Searcy, AR
Jane M. Erickson, Snohomish, WA
Jim Goll, Bothell, WA
Louisa Grayson-Ferree, Klamath Falls, OR
Harold S. Hadley, Aurora, Ontario
David N. Harrington, Underhill Center, VT
Wilbur W. Hylton, Grass Valley, CA
International Animal Exchange, Ferndale, MI
Thane Johnson, Citrus Heights, CA

Richard and Sharon Krom, Spring Valley, MN
Kenneth Lowe, Friday Harbor, WA
Charlotte F. Naslund, Edmonton, Alberta
Steve D. Perrault, Esopus, NY
Mary F. Portner, Kenai, AK
San Juan Islands Audubon Soc., Friday Harbor, WA
Greg Tarry, Calgary, Alberta
Richard E. Toltzmann, Inver Grove Heights, MN
Rick Trudeau, Amanda Park, WA
Rick A. Warhurst, Pleasanton, KS
Ramon D. Whitney, New Brighton, MN
Richard and Janet Wright, Friday Harbor, WA

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REMINDER - THE TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. ACCORDINGLY, ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS FROM INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND INSTITUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.